(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the amount provided by the civic bodies is not utilized in right way; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The medium of instruction in schools is decided by the respective State Governments. No information is maintained centrally on the condition of schools giving instruction in various languages.

Enrolment and retention in primary schools

700. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the new initiatives taken and/or contemplated by the UPA Government for achievement of 100 per cent enrolment and retention in primary schools as well as for attainment of total literacy; and

(b) whether such initiatives have been taken into account the past failures since the New Education Policy 1986 came into operation as well as the fact that cheper options adopted in the past in the context of constraints of resources have aggravated the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Government of India has given high priority to achieving universal elementary education in India through the following measures:

1. Levying of an Education Cess @ 2% on Direct and Indirect Central taxes to augment resources for the universalization of elementary education, especially for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the Mid-day Meal (MDM) schemes.
2. In the year 2005-06, the Plan allocation for Elementary Education and Literacy has gone up to Rs. 12531.76 crores, which is an increase of about 109% over the Plan allocation of 2004-05.
3. The Government of India has revamped the Mid-day Meal scheme with effect from September, 2004 to provide cooked mid-day meals to children in the age group 6-11 years.

4. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme has been invigorated as a National Mission for universalizing elementary education and by enhancing the outlays for the programme from Rs. 3057 crores in 2004-05 to Rs. 7156 crores in the year 2005-06.

5. The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya scheme has been launched in August, 2004 to set up 750 residential schools for girls at upper primary level, especially for girls from SC/ST/OBC and minority communities.

6. The Naitonal Literacy Mission authority which guides the Adult Education programmes in the country, had decided to launch special literacy drives in 150 districts of the country having low literacy rates as per Census 2001.

Mahila Samakhya Karyakram

†701. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States where 'Mahila Samakhya Karyakram' is operational at present;

(b) the basis for selection of the States for running this programme;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal for incorporating 'Mahila Samakhya Karyakram' into 'Rashtriya Mahila Samakhya Karyakram' in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, by when this proposal would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The Mahila Samakhya Programme (MSP) is operational in 9 States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. Mahila Samakhya Programme was introduced in 1995 in Madhya Pradesh but was not sustained by the State Government. A proposal for restarting the MSP in Madhya Pradesh has now been received in the Government of India. Government of India is ascertaining State level commitments for the programme's management and availability of resources.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.